

Big Sky Libraries

Advisory Groups Established

At its June 26th meeting, the Commission approved the establishment of two new task forces to study and make recommendations to the Commission regarding two critical areas.

The Networking Task Force's purpose is to guide MSL's activities, procedures, and policies regarding technological and networking issues. Members were drawn from many stakeholder groups for participation on the task force.

The commission also set up a Law Revision Task Force whose purpose is to review Montana's library laws and suggest any needed changes. Again, this task force consists of members drawn from all interested parties.

Lists of the members of the Networking Task Force and the Law Revision Task Force appear on page 5 of this newsletter.

Job Vacancies: MSL is currently advertising for two state-wide technology consultants, one to be based in Billings and the other in Great Falls. Established by the State Library Commissions both positions will provide advice and assistance to public libraries as they become connected to the Internet and develop other technologies. Positions close August 25th. Contact Mary Jane West, 406-444-3384.

New Acquisitions at MSL

Connecting Kids and the Internet, by Allen C. Bensen and Linda M. Fodenski

Frugal Youth Cybrarian, by Calvin Ross

A Copyright Sampler, edited by Wanda K. Johnston and Derrie B. Roark

Federal Information Policies in the 1990's: Views and Perspectives, edited by Peter Hernon, Charles McClure, Harold C. Relyea

The New Publicity Kit, by Jeanette Smith

Building Strategic Relationships, by William Bergquist, Juli Betwee and David Meuel

Big Sky Libraries is a publication of the Montana State Library

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Karen Strege - State Librarian

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Please send articles and other information to be included in this newsletter to:

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Advisory Council Re-established

Governor Racicot recently appointed nine members to the Library Services Advisory Council. Per the executive order their terms will extend through June 20, 1999.

The Council will advise and make recommendations to the State Library Commission on the development, evaluation and funding of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) program and other pertinent issues that may relate to or affect LSTA.

The new roster for the Advisory Council is on page 5.

Inside

<i>A Word From Our State Librarian</i>	2
<i>Notice-Copies of publication</i>	2
<i>Directory Changes</i>	2
<i>Strege Appointed to Oversight Committee</i>	3
<i>Storylines America</i>	3
<i>Rural Libraries Conference</i>	3
<i>Volunteer Appreciation</i>	3
<i>James Reichel Dies</i>	4
<i>Universal Service</i>	4
<i>Around the State</i>	4
<i>New Advisory Council and Task Force Members</i>	5
<i>Notice-Library Laws Published</i>	5
<i>Calendar</i>	6
<i>Spotlight: Alberta Blanton</i>	6
<i>Long Range Plan</i>	6

A Word From Our State Librarian

Having just returned from the American Library Association's conference in San Francisco and a too-short vacation in Santa Cruz, I am experiencing reentry difficulties this week. The piles of messages, papers, and other items that have reproduced on my desk cause my attitude problem. My solution? I will urge the Commission to adopt a new policy that will require that everyone else will vacation when I do so that no new work awaits me on return. However, the most likely solution will be the passage of time.

Other parts of this newsletter contain very good news about modified, expanded, or new groups that will help the State Library staff and Commission improve library services in Montana. I am very happy that these individuals will give their valuable time to serve the library community. Watch for significant changes in the State Library's networking activities and perhaps some initiatives to modify Montana's Library Laws. Especially heartening to me, is that two fine legislators, Representatives Royal Johnson, Billings and Linda McCullough, Missoula, have agreed to participate on statewide committees. I also want to recognize two new Commissioners, David Johnson, Billings, and Rosemary Garvey, Butte. At the June meeting, David and Rosemary both asked insightful questions and contributed thoughtful comments

to the Commission's discussions. Their willingness to jump right into Commission business bodes well for Montana's libraries.

Also at the June meeting, the Commission approved a new long range plan for the State Library. We are currently editing parts of the plan to send to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the new Federal Institute that is in charge of the Library Services and Technology Act. This plan, I think, reflects the consensus of Montana's library community, on how the State Library should spend its resources in the next five years. I am very pleased that the Commission adopted the plan and would again like to thank each of you who contributed to this process.

Now to (what I consider) the fun part - carrying out the plan. Some activities that we have already accomplished are listed in this newsletter. Some that are not listed elsewhere include recruiting for two new networking consultants and reviewing different ways of providing state publication access to Montana citizens.

Conference attendance always leaves me tired but (after the reentry problems) optimistic and energized. It is a wonderful time to be a librarian. It's doubly wonderful to be a librarian in Montana.



NOTICE

MSL has received thirty copies of a publication entitled: **Even Anchors Need Lifelines: Public Libraries in Adult Literacy** by Gail Spangenberg. New York City, August 1996 Sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress.

If you would like to receive a copy of this publication please send a message to: Darlene Staffeldt, Montana State Library, 1515 E. 6th Ave., Helena, MT 59620-1800 or dmstaff@wln.com

Directory Changes

Page 8: Baker, Fallon County Library, Karyn Brown's e-mail - fallonco@midrivers.com

Page 12: Drummond Public Library, New Director: Jeanne L. Finley

Page 14: Glasgow City County Library, Emory Robotham's e-mail - 2maizey@3rivers.net

Page 19: Missoula Public Library, New Director: Bette Ammon

Page 21: Sidney Public Library, Renee Goss's e-mail - erg@yrfn.mtsid.mtlib.org

Page 69: Helena, Shodair Children's Hospital, Suzy Holt's e-mail - sholt@initco.net

CORRECTION:

Misprinted E-Mail Address:

Page 60: MSU College of Technology, Senior Librarian Natalee Vick-cgfnr@gemini.oscs.montana.edu.

STREGE APPOINTED TO OVER- SIGHT COMMITTEE

State Librarian Karen Strege was appointed to the Oversight Committee for the Montana Interim Universal Access Program. Twelve were chosen to serve on the committee. The goal of the Universal Access Program is to maximize the telecommunications opportunities available for schools, libraries and health care providers in Montana.

The first meeting of the oversight committee is anticipated to be in September.

StoryLines America

This fall ALA will launch "StoryLines America," a regional radio book discussion series broadcast on national Public Radio throughout the Northwest. Based on the highly successful Big Sky Radio series in Montana and Wyoming, StoryLines America will be a 13-part call-in book discussion featuring literature of the northwest. Libraries are being sought to participate in the program. Contact: Georgia Lomax, 253-630-8761

Rural Library Conference Scheduled

The conference, entitled "The Rural Library: Achieving Success in a Changing World," aims to explore the role of rural libraries in our changing times. Mary Bushing, MSU Libraries, and Greta Chapman, Lincoln County Library, are session

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The MSL staff and commissioners kicked up their heels this year and honored over 80 volunteers with a "Montana Out West" Roundup BBQ held at the Paul Kleffner Ranch pavilion.

The event was on June 17th. Lt. Governor Judy Martz offered inspiring remarks about the importance of volunteer service and presented letters of appreciation to each volunteer from Governor Marc Racicot. The keynote speaker was Bozeman author Dr. Gerald Sullivan, who delighted everyone with a presentation on "Successful Fiction Writing". Each volunteer received a hand-decorated horseshoe from the staff. Special recognition awards included:

Five years of service:

- Mary Zednick,
- Harvey Steen
- Frank Graham.

Ten years of service:

- Bette Mayer.

Fifteen years of service:

- Donna Anders
- Jean Schellenberger

Telephone Pioneers:

- Herb Blunn
- Louie Schmitt.

Hand-decorated horseshoe bookends and handmade sweat-shirts, as well as volunteer names added to the continual plaque (that hangs in the library) were among

speakers. Darlene Staffeldt of MSL serves on the planning committee for the conference. The conference will be held September 26-27, 1997 in Spokane, Washington. Call: 608-262-7942

some of the gifts that were given.

A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented posthumously in honor of R. Budd Gould. Budd's family will be in Helena later this summer for a formal presentation from the library.

A Special Appreciation Award was given to Telephone Pioneer Tom Basinger. This award singled Tom out for consistently maintaining the highest quality standards, dedication and dependability to provide Montana citizens with the best playback equipment, motivation of others and a willingness to assist where needed. The Recording Team of the year received individual awards for outstanding quality of books produced, dedication to consistent service and flexibility.

These included: Narrator of the Year: Ray Venzke, Monitor of the Year: Phyllis Herbert, and Reviewer of the Year: Sheila Bieber. There was 116 present for the BBQ, an all time record! Our volunteers continually hold the staff's respect in work ethics, dependability and commitment. They are truly partners in the staff-volunteer team!



Dr. Gerald Sullivan, author and Lt. Governor Judy Martz, keynote speaker.

James Reichel Dies

On June 24, 1997, James Donald Reichel, 49, died suddenly in Westby of complications from asthma. Jim had been conducting field surveys of prairie birds in the grasslands of north-eastern Montana when he fell ill.

He moved to Helena in 1993 to assume responsibility as lead zoologist for



the Montana Natural Heritage Program, at the Montana State Library. Jim was brilliant scientist at the peak of his career; he engaged in biological research on a variety of Montana species. He was a major contributor and co-author of *Montana Bird Distribution*, and the author of dozens of journal articles and reports.

In honor of Jim's life work and passion, an endowment was established in his name which will be used to further his efforts in conservation biology. Memorials can be sent to the J.D. Reichel Fund, c/o The Nature Conservancy, 32 S. Ewing, Helena MT 59601.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE

On June 3, 1997, the satellite downlink PBS presentation "**Maximizing Your E-Rate: Making the Most of New Telecommunications Discounts for Libraries and Schools**" was broadcast. The Montana presentation was organized by Darlene Staffeldt of MSL and sponsored by the Montana Library Association, Public Service Commission, Montana School Board Association and MSL. The presentation focused on the Universal Service Order 97-157 and its implications for public libraries, schools and rural health care organizations. You can interlibrary loan the 90 minute video presentation from MSL.

There are two articles posted on the State Library web page [<http://msl.mt.gov>], then push the telecommunications button]. All public librarians have

been sent these two documents along with a request for completing an abbreviated technology plan.

The technology plan must be approved and on file at the Montana State Library in order for a public library to become eligible to applying for discounted services. They were due to MSL by July 7, 1997, but any plans returned during the entire month of July will be accepted. School libraries do not apply separately from their districts. OPI has assigned individuals review and approve technology plans submitted by school districts. Contact Steve Meredith or Betsy Nordell at OPI (406-444-3563, or 406-444-1626) for those details. METNET does contain similar information specific to schools on its web site.

Contact: Karen Strege, State Librarian, 406-444-3116 or e-mail: kstrege@msl.mt.gov.

Around the State

Congratulation to Bette Ammon for being appointed as the director of the Missoula Public Library!

Congratulations also to Greta Chapman for receiving her M.L.S. this month!

Choteau Public Library received an anonymous donation that will allow it to remain open until at least June 30, 1998.

Results of a survey done by the Stillwater County Library show that library services they provide are well-regarded in the commu-

nity. The survey was sponsored and by the Friends of the Library. Respondents were very happy [80 percent] with books and other services and almost all [96 percent] were very satisfied with library staff.

The West Yellowstone Public Library has received a \$5,000 grant from the Dumke Foundation to purchase new shelving for the children's section of the library and to purchase materials to put on those shelves.

(Continued on page 5)

New Advisory Council and Task Force Members

LAW REVISION TASK FORCE

- Janice Bradley, Lewistown, representing medium sized public libraries
- Sheila Lee, Plentywood, representing small public libraries
- Peggy Kimmet, Hardin, representing school libraries
- Bill Cochran, Billings, representing large public libraries
- Gordon Morris, Helena, representing Montana Association of Counties
- Lois Fitzpatrick, Helena, MLA Government Affairs Chairperson
- Deborah Schlesinger, Helena, representing federation coordinators
- JoAlice Juedeman, Geraldine, representing trustees
- Royal Johnson, Billings, representing the Montana Legislature
- Marcella Park, Ennis, representing League of Cities and Towns
- Dorothy Laird, Whitefish, representing MSL Commission

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- ⇒Lois Fitzpatrick, Helena, representing academic libraries;
- ⇒Delores Drennen, Miles City, representing public libraries;
- ⇒Peggy Bloom, Missoula, representing library users from western Montana;
- ⇒Bill Cochran, Billings, representing the Montana Library Association;
- ⇒Wes Plann, Terry, representing library users from eastern Montana;
- ⇒Gloria Wahl, Lewistown, repre-

sending library users from central Montana;

- ⇒Linda McCulloch, Missoula, representing the Montana Legislature;
- ⇒Lynn Donovan, Sidney, representing school libraries;
- ⇒Duran DuBoise, Butte, representing persons unable to user traditional library service.

NETWORKING TASK FORCE

- Karyn Brown, Baker, representing small public libraries
- Al Randall, Libby, representing school libraries
- Maggie Farrel, Bozeman, representing large academic libraries
- Suzy Holt, Helena, representing special/tribal college libraries
- Mike Schultz, Dillon, representing the MSL Commission
- Wendy Wheeler, Helena, representing Information Services Division, State of Montana
- Lois Fitzpatrick, Helena, representing LSTA Advisory Council
- Bruce Newell, Helena, representing large public libraries
- Darlene Staffeldt and Vicki Terbovich, Helena, ex-officio, representing MSL
- Greta Chapman, Libby, representing federation coordinators
- John Cech, Billings, library users

(Around the State - Continued from page 4)

Rica Garrison inherited money from her father, Fedric, who wanted any that remained at her death to go to charity. She decided not to wait and gave several Missoula organizations a total of \$250,000. The University of Montana Mansfield Library will receive about \$140,000. The Missoula Public Library, whose staff plans to take a year or two to use the money to fill gaps in its collections, got about \$38,000.

Twin Bridges Library celebrated their 100th year in June. Congratulations to them!

An anonymous donor has given \$20,000 each to libraries in Polson, Ronan and Hot Springs. The donation was quite timely for Hot Springs' library, since it is currently under construction, and the donation is the amount money they were short for finishing construction.

This summer, the Clancy School Library will be open to the Clancy, Montana City and Jefferson City communities. Although the collection is primarily for school age readers, Boulder Community and Jefferson County Libraries will be supplying books more appropriate for younger and older readers.

See the articles on page 1 for more information on these three advi-

Notice: The Montana Library Laws has recently been updated. Each public library will automatically receive one copy. If librarians in any other types of libraries would like to receive one or more copies, or if public librarians would like additional copies for their libraries or their trustees, the publication is available through Tristen or Mary Jane, State Library, 406-444-3115 or e-mail: tshinnic@msl.mt.gov.

Calendar

August 14	MSL Commission Meeting in Deer Lodge
August 22	Deadline for comments on Montana Interim Universal Access Program rules
September 10	Networking Task Force meeting in Helena
September 11	Golden Plains Federation meeting in Glasgow
September 26-27	The Rural Library Conference Spokane, Washington
September 27	Broad Valleys Federation meeting in Anaconda
September 27	South Central Federation meeting in Billings
October 3	Tamarack Federation meeting in Kalispell
October 4 or 11	Sagebrush Federation meeting in Miles City
October 9	Pathfinder Federation meeting in Conrad
October 15	MSL Commission meeting in Helena

Address Correction Requested

Spotlight: Alberta Blanton

Alberta
"Birdie"



Long Range Plan

The Long Range Plan for library service in Montana was approved by the State Library Commission at their June meeting. After some editing, the plan will be finalized and will be available on the State Library's Web page. It will also be available in hard copy format. If you would like to receive a copy by mail, please contact Mary Jane West at the State Library (406) 444-3384.

Alberta Blanton (a.k.a. Birdie) is a Readers' Advisor and the Machine Lending Agent for the Montana Talking Book Library. As a Readers' Advisor, Birdie is responsible for assisting patrons whose last name begins with H through O, but she is always ready and willing to help any patron who may call. Birdie is also responsible for maintaining an inventory of approximately 4,316 pieces of playback equipment which is used to play the talking books. All of this equipment is property of the United States government and must be accounted for.

Birdie began working for the Montana State Library in 1978 as a Library Clerk in the Reference Department. She operated the teletype equipment which transmitted ILL requests to the PNBC (Pacific Northwest Bibliographic Center) and other libraries. In July of 1979 she began work in the Library for

the Blind and Physically Handicapped (now the Talking Book Library) as Readers' Advisor and Machine Lending Agent and has been there every since.

Birdie has four children and 5 grandchildren. She is very talented at many crafts. Recently, she instigated a project which involved cleaning 80 USED horseshoes and decorating them as gifts for the library volunteers. (A good idea, they turned out lovely!!) Birdie and husband Deane enjoys camping in their fifth wheeler; Birdie reads while Deane fishes.

Birdie is devoted to serving the patrons of the Talking Book Library. She is responsive to their needs and concerns and her priority is to supply the right book at the right time to all Montana citizens who cannot read standard print because of a visual or physical disability.